



# Montgomery County Council

*From the Office of Councilmember Steve Silverman*

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**For Immediate Release**

**September 20, 2005**

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## **Silverman proposes stiffer penalties to protect County forests**

Montgomery County Councilmember Steven Silverman (At-Large) today proposed legislation to impose stiffer penalties for violations of the County's forest conservation law. His proposal follows the settlement agreement between the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Washington Redskins owner Daniel Snyder over removal of mature trees on the Snyder property next to the C&O Canal in Potomac. Currently, the County's forest conservation law has a maximum penalty of only \$1 per square foot.

According to Silverman, "We need to put real teeth into our law to preserve our County's forests. The current \$1 per square foot penalty is miniscule. It ought to be at least ten times that much."

The Silverman proposal removes the current \$1 per square foot maximum penalty from the County forest conservation law. As the law already permits, Silverman would have the County Council set a new upper limit by resolution, which allows for easier and quicker adjustments in maximum fines.

Silverman's proposal is also cosponsored by Councilmembers Phil Andrews, Howard Denis, Nancy Floreen, Marilyn Praisner and Michael Subin. A public hearing on the bill is tentatively scheduled for October 11 at 1:30 p.m.

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